



# HANCOCK

## Berkshire County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Settled Circa 1762, Hancock is a quiet, peaceful town about twenty miles long and three miles wide, bordered on the east by the famous Berkshire Hills and on the west by the rugged Taconic Range. Hancock is the longest and narrowest town in Berkshire County. To the east, 6,600 acres of land comprise the major part of a state forest; in the north end, Audubon wildlife sanctuary exists on an estimated 500 acres.

Hancock is very rural with no industry and is primarily a tourist-centered community with a population of approximately 800. Established in 1790, Hancock Shaker Village displays a living history non-profit museum of Shaker life, crafts and farming. Hancock is also the home of a one-of-a-kind barn museum, a campground, a nudist camp, as well as the largest ski area in Massachusetts. Hancock can boast of many fine inns, one dating back to 1767. Contributing to Hancock's uniqueness is the fact that there are twenty-four known and catalogued cemeteries in town, with the earliest recorded burial in 1772. All of these cemeteries are lovingly maintained by volunteers as is the small library and the fire department. Hancock is fortunate to offer one of the finest educational systems in the country thanks to the dedication of interested parents and a devoted School Committee. Hancock's elementary school presently offers a unique academic atmosphere without grading that is personalized for each and every child. Farming is still practiced in the valley providing many attractive vistas along Route 43 and bringing agricultural awards for excellence to some of the town's farms.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Williamstown on the north; New Ashford, Lanesborough, and Pittsfield on the east; Richmond on the south; and New Lebanon, Stephentown, and Berlin, New York, on the west. Hancock is 14 miles east of Pittsfield, 59 miles west of Greenfield, and 149 miles northwest of Boston.

**Total Area:** 35.76 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 35.73 sq. miles

**Population:** 628

**Density:** 18 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Hancock, Pittsfield West, Berlin, Canaan, N.Y.

## Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 738-5225

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1776

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	428		
Democrats	35	8.2	%
Republicans	24	5.6	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	369	86.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Hancock town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	721	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	721	100.0
Male.....	379	52.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	10	1.4
Female.....	342	47.4	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	49	6.8	Puerto Rican.....	1	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	50	6.9	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	57	7.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	9	1.2
15 to 19 years.....	25	3.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	711	98.6
20 to 24 years.....	19	2.6	White alone.....	695	96.4
25 to 34 years.....	100	13.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	115	16.0	Total population.....	721	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	116	16.1	In households.....	713	98.9
55 to 59 years.....	55	7.6	Householder.....	296	41.1
60 to 64 years.....	43	6.0	Spouse.....	184	25.5
65 to 74 years.....	55	7.6	Child.....	195	27.0
75 to 84 years.....	27	3.7	Own child under 18 years.....	159	22.1
85 years and over.....	10	1.4	Other relatives.....	8	1.1
Median age (years).....	39.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	5	0.7
18 years and over.....	547	75.9	Nonrelatives.....	30	4.2
Male.....	269	37.3	Unmarried partner.....	15	2.1
Female.....	278	38.6	In group quarters.....	8	1.1
21 years and over.....	534	74.1	Institutionalized population.....	8	1.1
62 years and over.....	121	16.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	92	12.8	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	41	5.7	Total households.....	296	100.0
Female.....	51	7.1	Family households (families).....	210	70.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	88	29.7
One race.....	709	98.3	Married-couple family.....	184	62.2
White.....	702	97.4	With own children under 18 years.....	75	25.3
Black or African American.....	2	0.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	16	5.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	-	-	With own children under 18 years.....	7	2.4
Asian.....	4	0.6	Nonfamily households.....	86	29.1
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	69	23.3
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	22	7.4
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	91	30.7
Japanese.....	2	0.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	66	22.3
Korean.....	1	0.1	Average household size.....	2.41	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.84	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	472	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	296	62.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	176	37.3
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	131	27.8
Some other race.....	1	0.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	6.1	(X)
Two or more races.....	12	1.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	296	100.0
White.....	713	98.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	229	77.4
Black or African American.....	4	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	67	22.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.1	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.49	(X)
Asian.....	5	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.13	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	11	1.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Hancock is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports. Public roads and highways meet the requirements of modern transportation.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 43 running N-S between Williamstown and Hancock.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Hancock, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts and New York is easily accessible.

### Bus

Hancock is not affiliated with any regional transit authority, but the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority provides fixed route service between the Hancock Shaker Village and Pittsfield.

### Other

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Pittsfield, has 2 asphalt runways 3,496' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline service is available in Albany, New York, and at Bradley Field in Connecticut (both approx. an hour from Pittsfield).



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.